

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following is a complete listing of the claims indicating the current status of each claim and including amendments currently entered as highlighted.

Claims 1-17 (previously canceled)

Claim 18. (currently amended) A method performed in a computer for securing an executable program file, ~~wherein said~~ thereby producing a secured program file is executable in a computer, the method comprising the steps of:

(a) ~~designating~~marking a plurality of ~~critical~~ locations within the executable program file by placing a plurality of flags at said locations;

(b) arming the executable program file, thereby producing ~~at the modified-executable~~ secured program file by including a plurality of software procedures at said ~~critical~~ locations wherein each said software procedure performs at least one linked portion of the securing; and

(c) storing ~~said the modified-executable~~ secured program file in a storage medium operatively attached to a computer; and

(d) ~~wherein upon~~ executing in a computer said ~~modified-executable~~secured program file, ~~thereby running~~ said software procedures are run solely upon reaching said respective locations.

Claim 19 (previously presented) The method of claim 18, wherein the securing includes at least one security function selected from the group consisting of checking authenticity, checking validity and authorization.

Claim 20 (previously presented) The method of claim 18, wherein said executing includes using a key from at least one of said software procedures to decrypt at least one other of said software procedures.

Claim 21 (previously presented) The method of claim 18, wherein said arming includes storing in at least one of said software procedures at least a reference to a key, wherein said key is required for accessing another of said software procedures.

Claim 22 (currently amended) The method of claim 18, wherein said ~~designating~~marking is performed by an owner of digital content accessible by said executable program file.

Claim 23 (currently amended) The method of claim 18, further comprising the step of, prior to at least a portion of said executing:

(ed) verifying an authentication key accessible over the Internet.

Claim 24 (currently amended) The method of claim 18, further comprising the step of:

(ed) upon said executing, accessing secured digital content stored on ~~a said storage-digital~~ storage-digital medium, wherein at least one key required for said accessing is stored on said ~~digital~~storage medium.

Claim 25 (previously presented) The method of claim 24, wherein said at least one key is required to decrypt said secured digital content.

Claim 26 (currently amended) The method of claim 24, wherein said at least one key is stored on said ~~digital~~storage medium.

Claim 27 (previously presented) The method of claim 24, wherein said at least one key has at least one address stored solely in at least one of said software procedures.

Claim 28 (currently) The method of claim 24, wherein said at least one key is provided by an address conversion module stored on said ~~digital~~storage medium.

Claim 29 (previously presented) The method of claim 18, wherein at least one of said software procedures is encrypted using at least one key.

Claim 30 (previously presented) The method of claim 18, wherein at least one of said software procedures receives at least a portion of a key from at least one other of said software procedures.

Claim 31 (previously presented) The method of claim 18, wherein a key is determined by selectably either a specific location within said software procedure or a calculation based on the software procedure, further comprising the step of:

(d) accessing another said software procedure using said key.

Claim 32 (previously presented) The method of claim 18, wherein said software procedures are concealed within the executable program file.

Claim 33 (canceled)

Claim 34 (previously presented) The method of claim 18, wherein portions of said executable program file are occluded by said software procedures.

Claim 35 (currently amended) ~~A digital~~ The storage medium including which stores the modified executable secured program file, produced according to the method of claim 18.

Claim 36 (currently amended) ~~A~~ The ~~digital~~ storage medium storing secured digital content accessible by ~~a modified~~ the secured program file produced according to the method of claim 18.

Claim 37 (currently amended) A program storage device readable by a machine, tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by the machine to perform the method steps of claim 18 for securing an executable program file, ~~wherein said thereby producing a secured~~ program file is executable in a computer, ~~the method comprising the steps of:~~

~~—— (a) designating a plurality of critical locations within the executable program file;~~

~~—— (b) arming the executable program file, thereby producing a modified executable program file by including a plurality of software procedures at said critical locations wherein each said software procedure performs at least one linked portion of the securing;~~

~~—— (c) storing said modified executable program file in storage operatively attached to a computer; and~~

~~_____ (d) executing in a computer said modified executable program file, thereby running said software procedures solely upon reaching said respective locations. _____~~

Claim 38 (new) A method performed in a computer for securing data and storing the data as secured data on a storage medium, the method comprising the steps of:

_____ (a) marking a plurality of locations within the data by placing a plurality of flags at said locations;

_____ (b) arming the data, thereby producing the secured data by including a plurality of software procedures at said locations wherein each said software procedure performs at least one linked portion of the securing; and

_____ (c) storing the secured data in the storage medium operatively attached to a computer;

_____ wherein upon reading said secured data, said software procedures are run solely upon reaching said respective locations.